DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 147 095 RC 010 243

AUTHOR	Fernandez, Edward W.; And Others
TITLE	Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1977 (Advance Report). Population Characteristics, Current Population Reports.
INSTITUTION	Bureau of the Census (DOC), Suitland, Md. Population Div.
REPORT NO	Series-P-20-317
PUB DATE	Dec 77
NOTE	14p.; For related document, see Ed 135 565
AVAILABLE FROM	Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (Series P-20, No. 317, $0.80)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Achievement; Age; *Census Figures; Cubans; *Demography; Employment; *Ethnic Origins; Income; Marital Status; Mexican Americans; National Surveys; *Population Trends; Puerto Ricans; Residential Patterns; *Socioeconomic Background; *Spanish Speaking; Tables (Data)

ABSTRACT

The report presents advance data from the March 1977 Current Population Survey on selected demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin. Persons of Spanish origin are divided into the subcategories of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. Data pertain to such population characteristics as age, sex, marital status, metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence, educational attainment, employment and occupation, income, and poverty status. In March 1977, there were about 11.3 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States: 6.5 million of Mexican origin, 1.7 million of Puerto Rican origin, 700,000 of Cuban origin, 900,000 of Central or South American origin, and 1.4 million of other Spanish origin. About 85% of the families lived in metropolitan areas. The median age was 22 years; 42% were under 18 years old. Only about 40% of those 25 years old and over had completed a high school education. About 57% of the employed men were working in blue-collar occupations, and about 23% were working in white-collar jobs. The median income of Spanish origin families in 1976 was $10,300 as compared with a median of $15,200 for families not of Spanish origin. In addition, 23% of the Spanish origin families had incomes below the poverty level as compared with 9% of the families not of Spanish origin. (NQ)

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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 317
Issued December 1977

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Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1977

(Advance Report)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was prepared by **Edward W. Fernandez**, Chief, Spanish Statistics Staff with the assistance of **Arthur Cresce** and **Carmen DeNavas**. General direction was provided by **Nampeo McKenney**, Chief, Ethnic and Racial Statistics Staffs, Population Divison.

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census, **Current Population Reports**, Series P-20, No. 317, "Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1977," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1977.

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Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1977

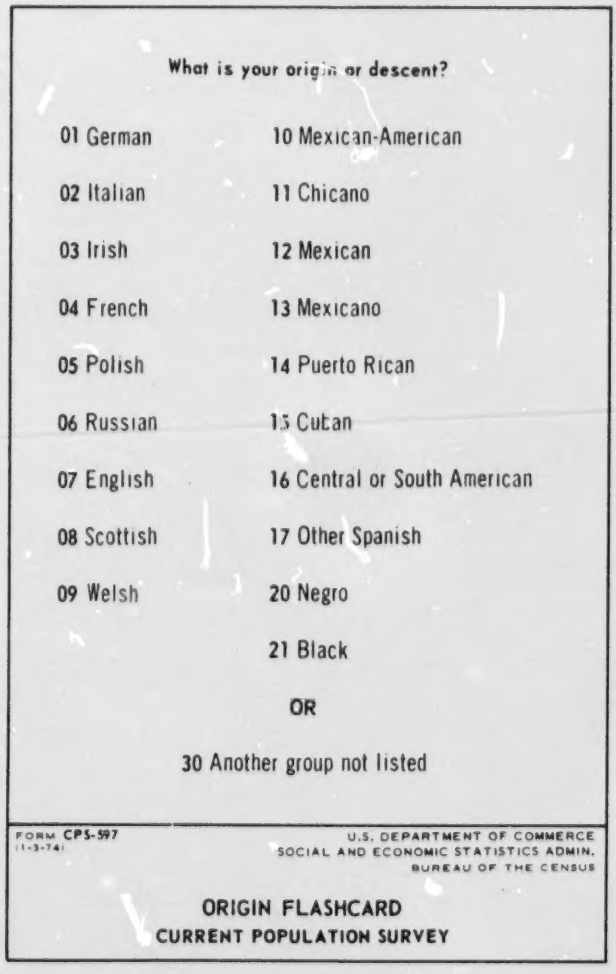
This report presents advance data from the March 1977 Current Population Survey on selected demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in the United States.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of persons of Spanish origin in the United States in March 1977 totaled about 11.3 million; 6.5 million were of Mexican origin, 1.7 million of Puerto Rican origin, and 700,000 of Cuban origin. In addition, 900,000 persons were of Central or South American origin, and 1.4 million of other Spanish origin.
- Most families of Spanish origin live in the metropolitan areas of the Nation; about 85 percent resided in metropolitan areas in March 1977 as compared with 68 percent of those families who were not of Spanish origin.
- The Spanish origin population is a young population. The median age in March 1977 was 22 years as compared with a median of 30 years for the non-Spanish origin population. Moreover, 42 percent of the persons of Spanish origin were under 18 years old as compared with 30 percent of those not of Spanish origin.
- Persons of Spanish origin have lower educational attainment levels than persons not of Spanish origin. Only about 40 percent of the Spanish origin population 25 years old and over had completed a high school education as compared with 66 percent of those not of Spanish origin.
- Working men of Spanish origin are more likely to be employed as blue-collar workers and less likely to be employed as white-collar workers than men not of Spanish origin. About 57 percent of the employed men of Spanish origin were working in blue-collar occupations in March 1977 as compared with 45 percent of those not of Spanish origin. Only about 23 percent of the employed men of Spanish origin were working in white-collar jobs as compared with 43 percent of the non-Spanish origin men.
- The families of Spanish origin are not as well off financially as other families in the Nation. The median income of Spanish origin families in 1976 was $10,300 as compared with a median of $15,200 for families not of Spanish origin. In addition, 23 percent of the Spanish origin families had incomes below the poverty level as compared with 9 percent of the families not of Spanish origin.

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they may differ somewhat from the figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the survey differs from a complete census figure by less than the standard error (a measure of the sampling variability that occurs because a sample rather than the whole of the population was surveyed). If a complete census instead of a sample survey had been taken in March 1977, the chances are about 68 out of 100 (one standard error) that the census would show the total number of persons of Spanish origin to be within the range of 11.0 to 11.6 million persons, and the chances are about 95 out of 100 (twice the standard error) that the census total would be between 10.7 and 11.9 million persons.

Information in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from responses to the following question:



What is your origin or descent?

01 German	10 Mexican-American
02 Italian	11 Chicano
03 Irish	12 Mexican
04 French	13 Mexicano
05 Polish	14 Puerto Rican
06 Russian	15 Cuban
07 English	16 Central or South American
08 Scottish	17 Other Spanish
09 Welsh	20 Negro
	21 Black

OR

30 Another group not listed

FORM CPS-597 (1-3-74)

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADMIN.
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. Persons who reported themselves specifically as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were consolidated into the one category, Mexican.

Tables in this report show data for some or all of the subcategories of persons of Spanish origin – Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. A more inclusive report on the characteristics of these persons will be published in this series in the near future.

Rounding.—The numbers in this report are in thousands and were rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals; hence, the sum of the parts may not equal the total shown. Also, because of rounding, the figures may differ slightly from table to table, and individual percentages may not always add to 100 percent.

Symbols.—A dash represents zero or rounds to zero. The symbol "B" means that the base for the derived figure is less than 75,000.

Figure 1. Number of Persons of Spanish Origin by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1977

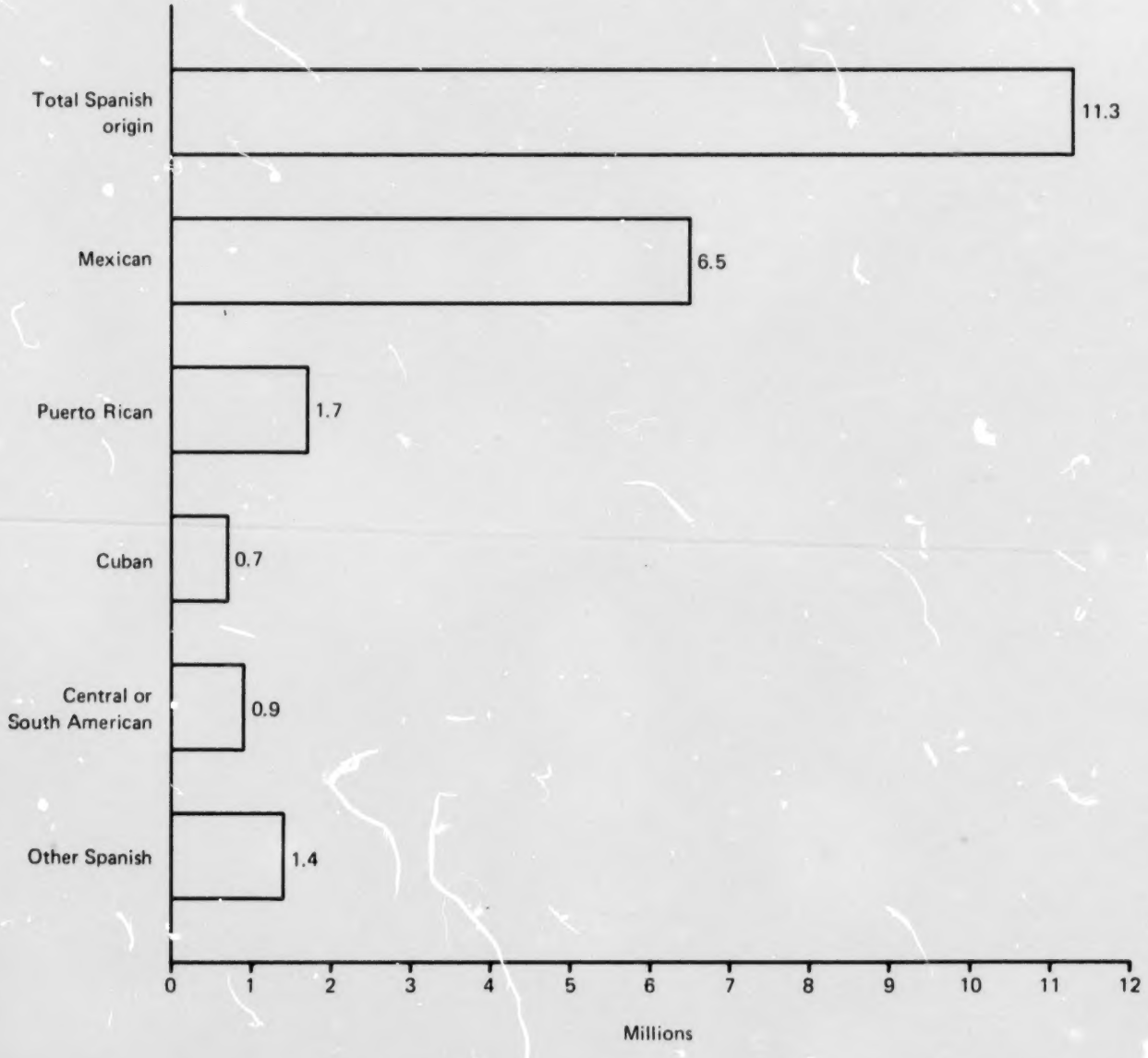
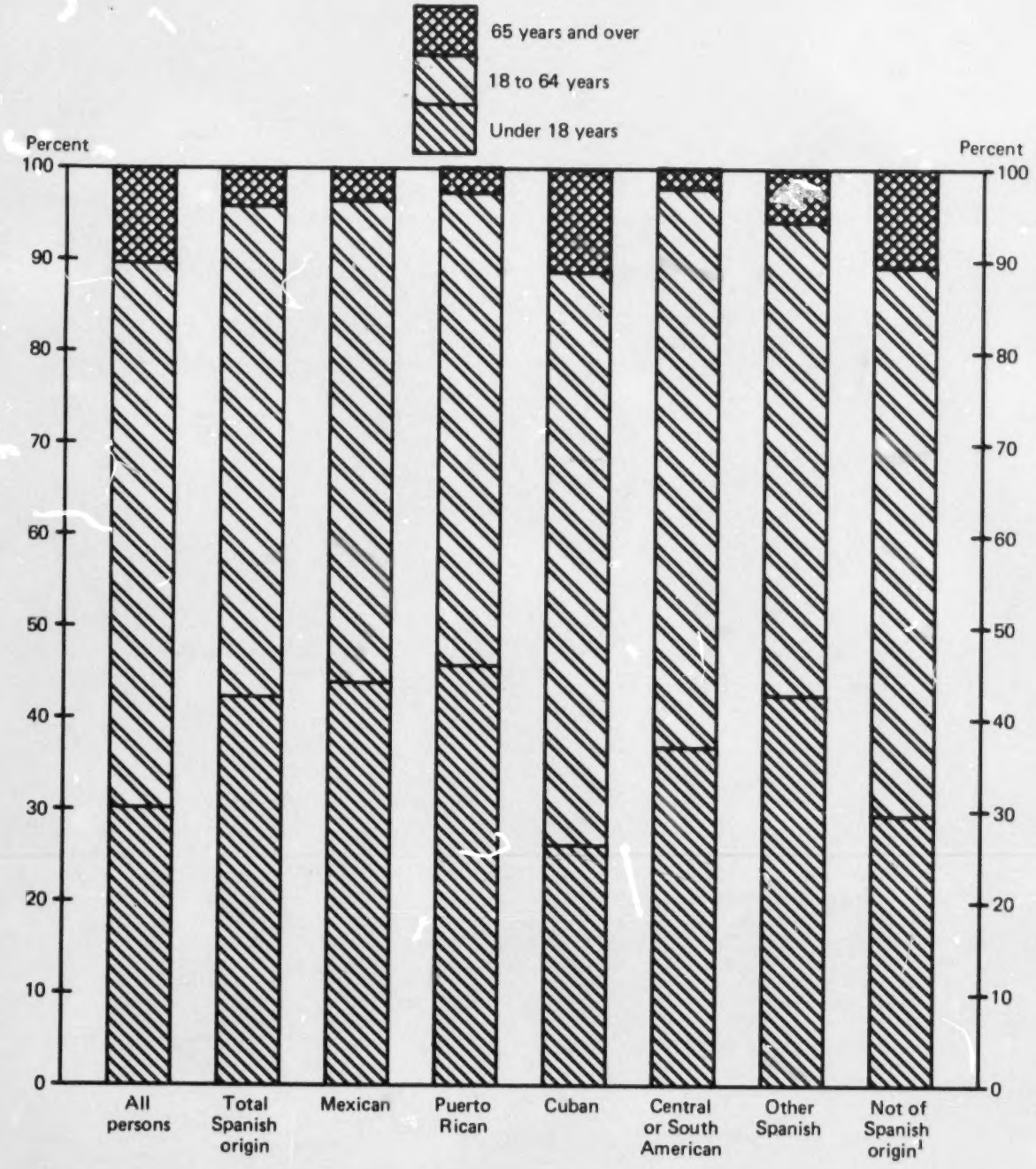
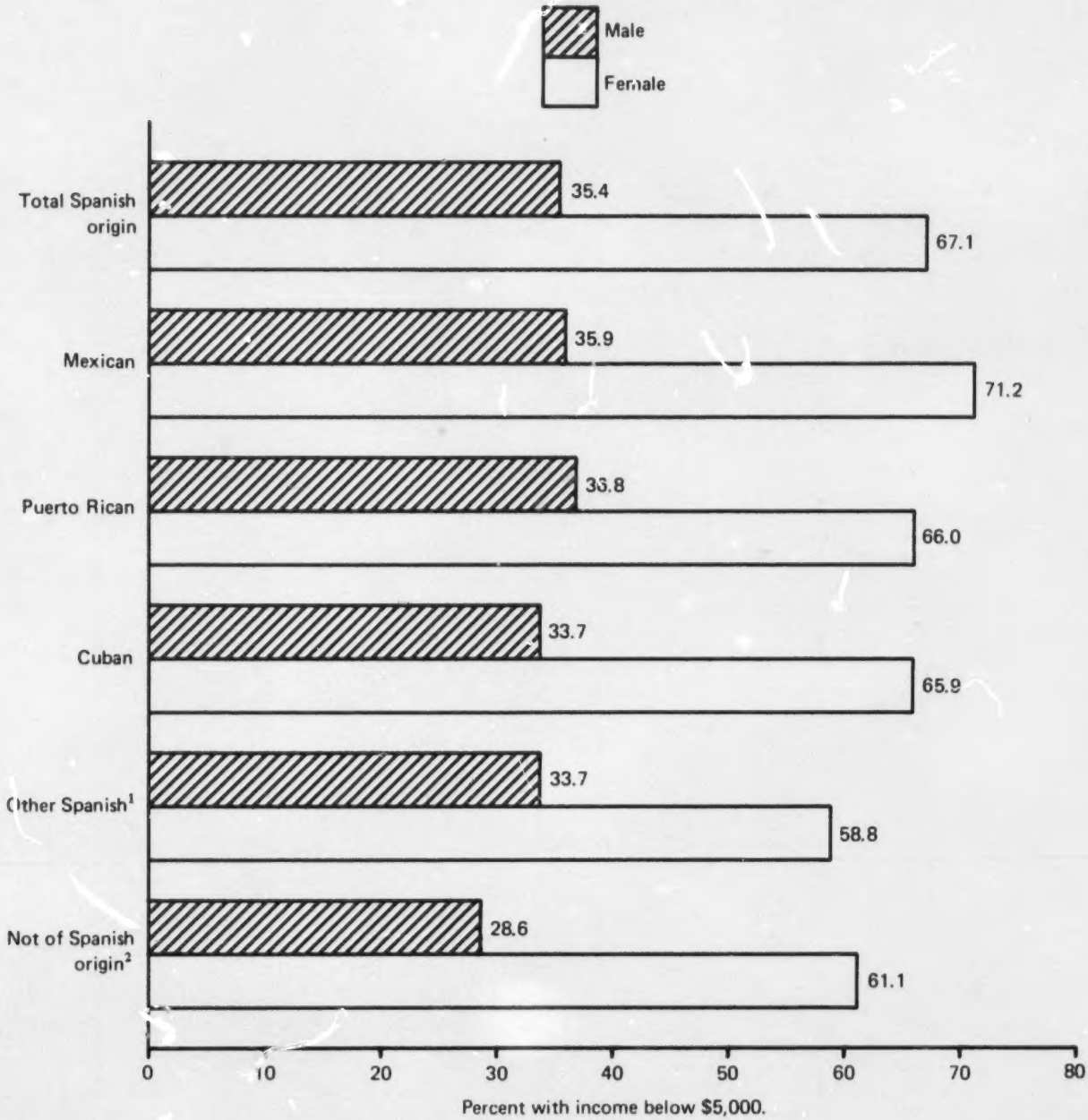


Figure 2. Percent Distribution by Age for All Persons and Persons of Spanish Origin by Type of Spanish Origin: March 1977



[1] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Figure 3. Percent of Persons of Spanish Origin 14 Years Old and Over With Income Below $5,000 in 1976 by Type of Spanish Origin and Sex: March 1977



[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

[2] Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

NOTE

In the past the Census Bureau has designated a head of household to serve as the central reference person for the collection and tabulation of data for individual members of the household (or family). However, recent social changes have resulted in a trend toward recognition of more equal status for all members of the household (or family), making the term "head" less relevant in the analysis of household and family data. As a result, the Bureau is currently developing new techniques of enumeration and data presentation which will eliminate the concept of "head." While much of the data in this report are based on the concept of "head," methodology for future Census Bureau reports will reflect a gradual movement away from this traditional practice.

Table 1. POPULATION OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(Numbers in thousands)

Type of Spanish origin	Both sexes		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, Spanish origin.....	11,269	100.0	5,486	100.0	5,782	100.0
Mexican.....	6,545	58.1	3,223	58.7	3,322	57.5
Puerto Rican.....	1,742	15.5	809	14.7	934	16.2
Cuban.....	681	6.0	323	5.9	358	6.2
Central or South American.....	872	7.7	429	7.8	443	7.7
Other Spanish.....	1,428	12.7	703	12.8	725	12.5

Table 2. METROPOLITAN-NONMETROPOLITAN RESIDENCE OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Total families	Spanish origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]	
United States.....	56,710	2,583	1,455	443	189	497	54,126
Metropolitan.....	37,955	2,196	1,157	425	185	428	35,759
Central cities.....	15,529	1,326	645	342	91	248	14,203
Balance.....	22,426	870	511	83	95	180	21,556
Nonmetropolitan.....	18,755	388	298	17	3	69	18,368
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION							
United States.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan.....	66.9	85.0	79.5	96.1	97.9	86.1	66.1
Central cities.....	27.4	51.3	44.4	77.2	48.1	49.9	26.2
Balance.....	39.5	33.7	35.1	18.8	50.3	36.2	39.8
Nonmetropolitan.....	33.1	15.0	20.5	3.9	1.6	13.9	33.9

[1]Includes families of Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2]Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

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Table 3. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

Age	Total population	Spanish origin						Not of Spanish origin[1]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South American	Other Spanish	
Total (thousands)	212,566	11,269	6,545	1,742	681	872	1,428	201,297
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.2	12.4	13.3	12.8	4.3	11.7	11.9	6.9
5 to 9 years	8.1	12.2	12.1	15.3	8.3	10.7	12.0	7.8
10 to 17 years	14.9	17.7	18.5	17.7	13.6	14.5	18.7	14.8
18 to 20 years	5.7	6.5	6.7	5.3	7.0	4.8	7.5	5.7
21 to 24 years	7.2	7.5	8.2	6.9	3.4	6.7	7.9	7.2
25 to 34 years	15.2	15.1	15.1	16.2	9.4	23.4	11.7	15.2
35 to 44 years	10.9	11.2	10.8	11.4	14.8	15.4	8.7	10.9
45 to 54 years	11.0	8.2	7.2	7.6	17.3	8.4	8.8	11.1
55 to 64 years	9.4	5.0	4.5	4.1	10.6	2.3	7.0	9.7
65 years and over	10.4	4.1	3.6	2.8	11.2	2.3	5.6	10.7
18 years and over	69.8	57.7	56.2	54.2	73.8	63.2	57.4	70.4
21 years and over	64.0	51.2	49.5	49.0	66.8	58.5	49.8	64.7
Median age (years)	29.2	21.7	20.8	20.4	37.7	25.8	20.9	29.6

[1]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 4. MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

Marital status	Total, Spanish origin		Mexican origin		Puerto Rican origin		Cuban origin		Other Spanish origin[1]	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 14 years old and over (thousands)	3,526	3,922	2,054	2,209	487	592	254	300	730	821
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	33.5	27.3	33.0	28.1	33.1	26.9	29.7	23.3	36.8	26.8
Married	61.0	59.9	61.8	60.1	60.7	60.0	62.8	57.0	58.4	60.7
Widowed	1.9	6.4	1.8	6.2	2.9	5.2	1.4	11.8	1.6	5.8
Divorced	3.6	6.4	3.4	5.6	3.3	8.0	6.1	7.9	3.6	6.7

[1]Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

Table 5. PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, AND AGE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(For meaning of symbols, see text)

Years of school completed and age	Total population	Spanish origin					Not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]	
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL							
Total, 25 years and over	3.7	18.0	23.3	18.8	10.6	7.0	3.1
25 to 29 years	0.9	7.1	8.4	6.6	(B)	4.3	0.5
30 to 34 years	0.9	7.6	10.9	4.6	(B)	2.7	0.5
35 to 44 years	1.8	12.6	15.5	18.6	7.0	2.3	1.2
45 to 64 years	3.8	25.0	35.1	25.3	11.1	8.5	3.1
65 years and over	9.8	49.5	65.4	(B)	20.6	25.0	9.0
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE							
Total, 25 years and over	64.9	39.6	33.6	30.6	48.5	57.9	66.0
25 to 29 years	85.4	58.1	55.3	45.9	(B)	73.0	86.9
30 to 34 years	81.0	49.0	43.5	38.9	(B)	65.8	82.8
35 to 44 years	73.6	41.3	35.7	30.4	53.9	60.2	75.5
45 to 64 years	60.5	29.1	19.2	19.6	41.7	51.7	61.7
65 years and over	37.5	16.2	5.6	(B)	38.0	29.0	37.9
PERCENT OF PERSONS WHO COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF COLLEGE OR MORE							
Total, 25 years and over	15.4	6.2	3.9	2.8	12.1	11.9	15.8

[1]Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 6. BROAD OCCUPATION GROUP OF TOTAL EMPLOYED PERSONS AND EMPLOYED PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(For meaning of symbols, see text)

Broad occupation group and sex	Total population	Spanish origin					Not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]	
MALE							
Total, employed persons.....(thousands)..	52,187	2,287	1,392	269	169	456	49,900
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	41.7	23.4	16.8	28.1	36.6	36.0	42.6
Blue-collar workers	45.2	57.2	63.3	51.3	43.8	47.4	44.6
Service workers	9.0	14.8	12.9	19.4	19.6	16.4	8.8
Farm workers	4.0	4.6	7.1	1.2	-	0.4	4.0
FEMALE							
Total, employed persons.....(thousands)..	36,034	1,397	766	146	133	352	34,637
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers	63.2	44.4	40.9	50.7	46.6	48.6	64.0
Blue-collar workers	14.4	28.9	26.0	33.8	38.3	29.8	13.8
Service workers	21.4	25.2	30.5	15.4	15.1	21.6	21.3
Farm workers	0.9	1.5	2.6	0.2	-	-	0.9

[1]Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 7. EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF THE SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(For meaning of symbols, see text)

Employment status and occupation	Male					Female				
	Total, Spanish origin	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]	Total, Spanish origin	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]
Persons, 16 years old and over.....(thousands)..	3,271	1,906	445	235	685	3,682	2,052	559	289	782
In civilian labor force.....(thousands)..	[illegible]	1,538	320	189	508	1,604	882	167	150	405
Percent of persons 16 years old and over.....	78.1	[illegible]	71.8	80.2	74.2	43.6	43.0	29.8	52.1	51.8
Percent unemployed.....	10.5	[illegible]	15.6	10.6	10.0	12.9	13.3	12.0	11.3	12.8
Employed.....(thousands)..	2,287	1,392	269	169	456	1,397	766	146	133	352
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical and kindred workers.....	7.7	4.7	9.2	13.4	13.6	8.2	6.0	10.0	8.6	11.9
Managers and administrators, except farm.....	6.9	5.1	6.7	8.7	12.1	2.8	3.1	1.8	2.2	2.8
Sales workers.....	2.8	2.2	4.6	4.1	2.9	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.9	5.4
Clerical and kindred workers.....	6.0	4.7	7.6	10.4	7.5	29.1	27.8	35.4	31.9	28.4
Craft and kindred workers.....	20.4	22.4	15.9	14.1	19.1	1.9	2.2	1.7	2.4	1.1
Operatives, including transport.....	26.2	27.9	27.1	22.4	21.5	26.1	22.7	31.1	35.2	27.8
Laborers, excluding farm.....	10.7	12.9	8.3	7.4	6.8	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.1
Farmers and farm managers.....	0.2	0.2	-	-	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Farm laborers and supervisors.....	4.4	6.8	1.2	-	0.2	1.5	2.6	0.2	-	-
Service workers, except private household.....	14.8	12.9	19.4	19.6	16.4	20.8	25.2	13.8	15.1	15.9
Private household workers.....	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	5.3	1.6	-	5.4

[1]Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.

Table 8. INCOME IN 1976 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN AND SEX, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(For meaning of symbols, see text)

Sex and origin	Median income	Percent with income below $5,000	Percent with income of $25,000 or more
SPANISH ORIGIN			
Male			
Total.....	$7,050	35.4	1.9
Mexican.....	6,891	35.9	1.4
Puerto Rican.....	7,124	36.8	0.8
Cuban.....	7,515	33.7	2.4
Other Spanish origin[1].....	7,342	33.7	4.1
Female			
Total.....	$3,359	67.1	0.1
Mexican.....	2,925	71.2	0.1
Puerto Rican.....	3,930	66.0	0.3
Cuban.....	3,224	65.9	-
Other Spanish origin[1].....	4,153	58.8	0.2
NOT OF SPANISH ORIGIN[2]			
Male.....	$9,580	28.6	7.0
Female.....	3,588	61.1	0.5

[1]Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 9. INCOME IN 1976 OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

Family income	Total	Spanish origin families					Families not of Spanish origin[2]
		Total	Mexican origin	Puerto Rican origin	Cuban origin	Other Spanish origin[1]	
Total families.....(thousands)..	56,710	2,583	1,455	443	189	497	54,126
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $4,000.....	7.0	13.5	12.5	21.6	15.4	8.2	6.6
$4,000 to $6,999.....	11.2	18.2	17.1	25.8	10.2	17.7	10.9
$7,000 to $9,999.....	11.8	17.0	18.6	14.6	18.7	14.1	11.5
$10,000 to $14,999.....	20.2	21.5	22.6	18.5	15.9	22.7	20.2
$15,000 to $19,999.....	19.1	15.4	15.5	8.6	22.6	17.7	19.3
$20,000 to $24,999.....	12.9	7.7	7.3	6.8	10.3	8.7	13.2
$25,000 or more.....	17.8	7.0	6.3	4.0	6.9	11.1	18.3
Median income.....	$14,958	$10,259	$10,322	$7,669	$11,773	$12,203	$15,176

[1] Includes Central or South American origin and other Spanish origin.
[2] Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 10. POVERTY STATUS IN 1976 OF ALL FAMILIES AND SPANISH ORIGIN FAMILIES BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1977

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total	Below the poverty level	
		Number	Percent
Total families.....	56,710	5,311	9.4
Spanish origin families.....	2,583	598	23.1
Mexican.....	1,455	320	22.0
Puerto Rican.....	443	172	38.8
Cuban.....	189	32	16.9
Central or South American.....	209	28	13.4
Other Spanish.....	288	46	16.0
Families not of Spanish origin[1]...	54,126	4,713	8.7

[1] Includes families with head who did not know or did not report on origin.

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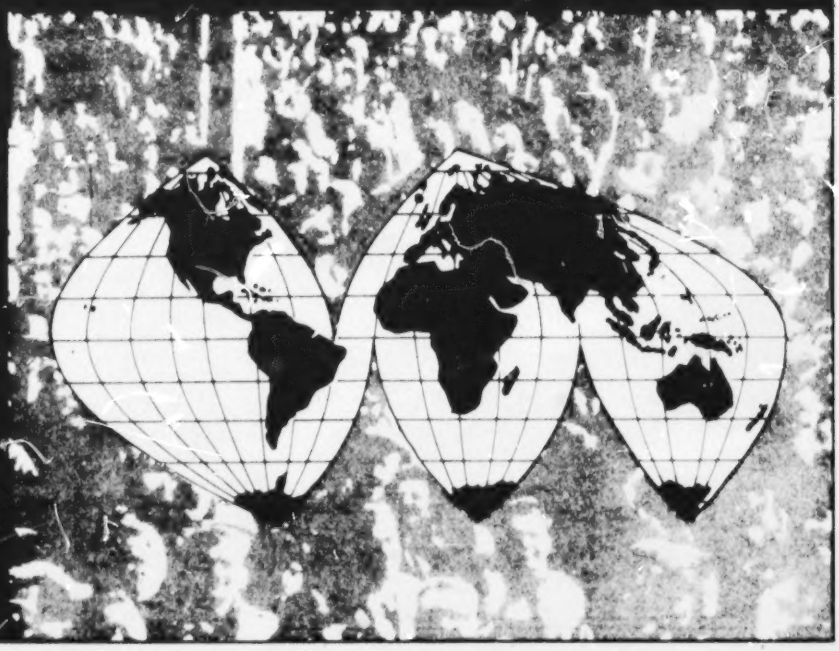

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